Draft
Environmental Assessment

NEW BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
and
RIGHT-OF-WAY REALIGNMENT
at
CAMERON BRIDGE
FISHING ACCESS SITE

JANUARY 2005

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site
Draft Environmental Assessment
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Gallatin County (the County) has an existing right-of-way across Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) lands at the Cameron Bridge road river crossing. The present road and bridge alignment do not meet current safety standards. A new bridge is proposed, with modification to the right-of-way, to improve alignment and travel safety.

   Gallatin County is proposing a road realignment, requiring a change of existing road right-of-way across FWP land. A net increase in required right-of-way would be 14,440 sq. ft. (0.33 acres). Total area of the new right-of-way proposed to be acquired from FWP would be 37,253 sq. ft. (0.85 acres). Gallatin County would relinquish 22,802 sq. ft. (0.52 acres) of existing right-of-way on FWP land.

2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605 Montana Code Annotated (MCA), which directs FWP to acquire, develop and operate a system of fishing accesses. The legislature established a funding account to ensure that this function would be accomplished. Sections 12-8-213, 23-1-105, 23-1-106, 15-1-122, 61-3-321, and 87-1-303, of the MCA, authorize the collection fees and charges for the use of state park system units and fishing access sites, and contain rule-making authority for their use, occupancy and protection. The opportunity for public involvement regarding the proposed park project is provided under MCA 23-1-110.

   Gallatin County has the responsibility and authority to maintain its roads and bridges in a safe manner.

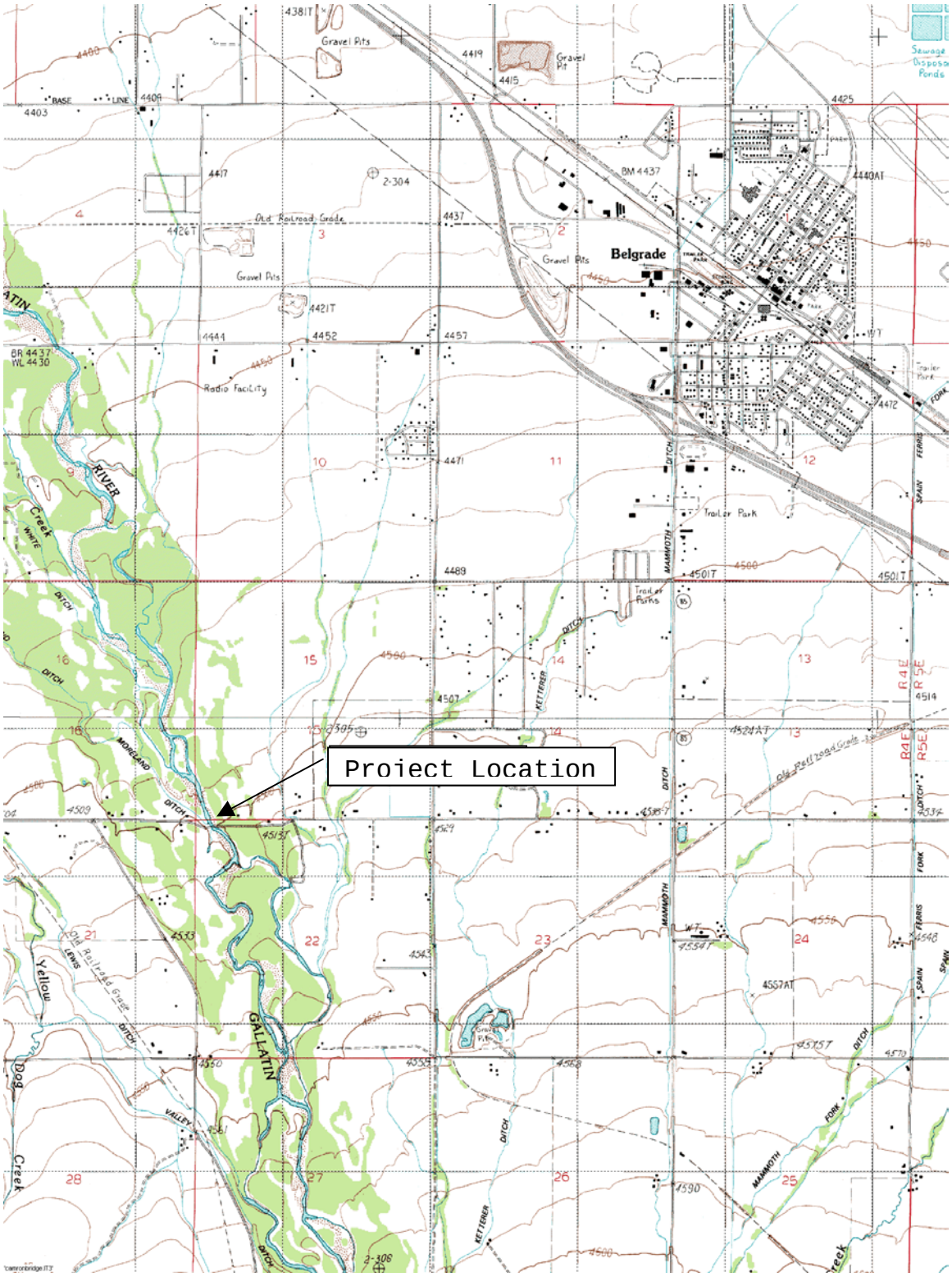
3. **Name of project:** New Bridge Construction and Right-of-Way Realignment at Cameron Bridge Fishing Access Site.

4. **Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):**
   Gallatin County
   Grants Administration
   311 W. Main
   Bozeman, MT 59715

5. **If applicable:**
   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: Spring 2005

Estimated Completion Date: Fall 2005
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 10%

6. **Cameron Bridge Location.** Cameron Bridge Road, south of Belgrade, Gallatin County. NW ¼ NW ¼ section 22 T13N R4E.



7. Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	0.04
Residential	0		
Industrial	0	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	0
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	0.40	Dry cropland	0
		Forestry	0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	0.08	Rangeland	0
		Other	0

8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits: permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

Agency Name	Permit
US Army Corps of Engineers	404
Gallatin County	Floodplain
Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality	Storm Water Discharge
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	SPA 124

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
State of Montana – Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP)	$ 371,290
Gallatin County	$ 558,709

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
Gallatin County --	Design, Construction & Funding Disbursement
National Park Service --	Land & Water Conservation Fund – (Acquisition and Development Encumberments)

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:

The current roadway alignment presents safety problems to traffic, due to poor sight distance and substandard bridge conditions.

The proposed action would be to straighten the road, widen the bridge approaches and replace a deficient one-lane bridge with one meeting current county standards. In doing so, about 1,000 lineal feet of road is proposed for realignment to remove a dangerous curve and increase sight distance. The present bridge has a load limit of 4 tons and a limited height clearance of 13.5 feet. The proposed bridge would contain a minimum 24-foot driving surface, allowing for two-way traffic, have a 20-ton load limit and remove height restrictions.

The proposed road realignment would require a change of existing road right-of-way across FWP land. A net increase in right-of-way across would be (14,440 sq. ft. (0.33 acres). Total area of new right-of-way proposed to be acquired from FWP would be 37,253 sq. ft. (0.85 acres). Gallatin County would relinquish 22,802 sq. ft. (0.52 acres) of existing right-of-way on FWP land.

A culvert would be placed within the Mooreland Irrigation Canal to accommodate the road realignment. The culvert would be sized to handle flow rates greater than historic flows. The canal headgate would not be impacted.

The project would not affect present access to the Gallatin River by anglers. Access on the southeast approach would be perpetuated with the development of six parking spaces within the abandoned approach. This constructed parking accommodation would be roughly the same as the existing area used for parking. The lot will not be expanded because of safety concerns regarding increased traffic speeds and potential vehicle congestion at the bridge.

See inserted aerial photo exhibit 5A.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative A: No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, the existing bridge, erected in 1891, and approach would remain in place. Traffic sight distance would remain limited and the structure would continue to be limited to one vehicle, with height and weight restrictions.

No right-of-way modification would be necessary. The safety and welfare of the driving/traveling public would remain status quo – no improvement.

Alternative B: New Structure With Existing Alignment
Under Alternative B, a new two lane bridge structure, designed to present county standards, would be placed across the river at the existing bridge location using the existing road alignment and within the existing FWP right-of-way. Sight distance would continue to be a problem and vehicles would need to approach the bridge at a reduced speed. Though the bridge structure would be sound, with two lanes, the road approaches would remain the same, thus not improving the safety of the driving/traveling public a great deal.

Preferred Alternative C: Proposed Action
Under the Proposed Action, a new two lane bridge structure, designed to current county standards, would be placed across the Gallatin River at a location 100 feet to the north of the present structure. Approximately 1000 feet of road, located on FWP property, would be realigned to improve horizontal alignment and increase sight distance. The safety and welfare of the driving/traveling public would be significantly improved through this action.

A net increase of 14,440 sq. ft. (0.33 acres) of right-of-way would be required. Total new right-of-way proposed to be acquired from FWP would be 37,253 sq. ft. (0.85 acres). Gallatin County would relinquish 22,802 sq. ft. (0.52 acres) of existing right-of-way on FWP land.

Right-of-way modifications would require FWP Commission approval, and their approval would be contingent on the Park Service's approval of all LWCF requirements being satisfied (See Below).

Note: a detailed evaluation of the Proposed Action is included in Part VI. Environmental Review Checklist beginning on page 5.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Explanation of Land & Water Conservation Fund Laws and the Role of the National Park Service

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 encumbers properties acquired or developed with LWCF funds. Such properties must be kept open to the public and maintained for outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Requests from the project sponsor for permission to convert LWCF assisted properties in whole or in part must be submitted by the State Liaison Officer to the National Park Service Regional Director in writing. NPS will consider conversion requests if the following prerequisites have been met.

1. All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.

2. The fair market value of the property to be converted has been established and the property proposed for substitution is of at least equal fair market value as established by a State approved appraisal (prepared in accordance with uniform Federal appraisal standards) excluding the value of structures or facilities that will not directly enhance its outdoor recreation utility.

3. The property proposed for replacement is of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location as that being converted. Dependent upon the situation and the discretion of the Regional Director, the replacement property need not provide identical recreation experiences or be located at the same site, provided it is in a reasonably equivalent location. Generally, the replacement property should be administered by the same political jurisdiction as the converted property. NPS will consider State requests to change the project sponsor when it is determined that a different political jurisdiction can better carry out the objectives of the original project agreement.

LWCF Mitigation Proposal

The Preferred Alternative (C) has been proposed because it best addresses the safety and welfare of the traveling public. Under this proposal, .33 acres (14,440 square feet) of FWP property would be needed for the new right-of-way, thus requiring replacement property under Land and Water Conservation Fund prerequisites listed above.

At this time, Stahly Engineering & Associates, on behalf of Gallatin County, is contacting adjacent landowners to FWP's Cameron Bridge FAS property in an effort to find a willing seller of .33 acres. If a willing seller is found, this property could then be proposed for on-site replacement property as per the preferred course of action under LWCF guidelines.

Currently, Stahly Engineering and Associates are moving ahead with a State approved appraisal of the FWP land being proposed for conversion. They have also indicated a willingness, on behalf of Gallatin County, to pursue off-site land suitable for immediate substitution, or to possibly set up an escrow- type account to hold funds for a future acquisition. The value of these funds would be based on the approved appraisal.

Other Mitigation, Stipulation or Control Measures

Erosion control measures would be permitted by Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under a *General Permit Application for Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activity* (includes *Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan)*.

Bridge abutment structure would be permitted under a US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act application. The structure would impact less than 0.10 acre acres of wetland. Also, a FWP SPA 124 Permit would be required. The Mooreland Canal would be designed and constructed to include riprap or concrete to prevent undermining.

The Mooreland Irrigation Canal Water Users Association will be made aware of all plans and would be encouraged to comment on the project. Flows into the Mooreland Irrigation Canal would be maintained during construction, and future flow rates would not be altered.

Proposed mitigation for the present parking area located southeast of the existing bridge would be the creation of a parking area in the abandoned approach section. This would replace the existing primitive parking area in use now. The new parking area would be designed for six vehicles and would allow pedestrian access to the river. Stahly Engineers, acting for Gallatin County, has agreed that the county will provide access and preparation work for this new parking area when the Gallatin County Road and Bridge Department does their on-site bridge approach roadwork. Access will be provided through any guardrail installed and a level, suitable site for the parking area will be roughed out. The construction of the finished parking area will be the responsibility of FWP and will be handled and paid for separately. However, Stahly Engineering & Associates indicated that there is a good likelihood that Gallatin County will work with FWP to partner on the finished work.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The analysis did not reveal any significant impacts to the human or physical environment.

In 1995, the Cameron Bridge Road has an average daily trip (ADT) of 888 based on Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) traffic survey. Present traffic limitations and load restrictions require that improvements be made to the bridge and its approaches. The proposed project would improve horizontal alignment (see aerial photo, page 5a), increase sight distances, allow two-way traffic, increase load limitations (from four tons to 20 tons), and remove height restrictions.

Existing Cameron Bridge, looking east. Moreland irrigation ditch headwall is in the foreground.

Cameron Bridge, looking east. The bridge would be moved north (left), impacting streambed and floodplain. Curved approach at right would be eliminated.

Cameron Bridge would be moved north (right). The irrigation headwall would not be impacted. New road alignment would fall roughly several feet south (left) of the power poles.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The public will be notified by way of legal notices in five local newspapers – the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, the Montana Standard, the Helena Independent Record, the Belgrade News and the High Country Independent Press – and by public notice on the FWP webpage: **http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices**. The public will have 30 days to comment on this proposal. The comment period will run from January 26, 2005 to 5:00 pm, February 24, 2005. The Mooreland Irrigation Canal Board will also be asked for input and comments.

(This level of public involvement is appropriate for the scope and effects of the proposed project.)

2. Duration of comment period, if any.

The public comment period will extend 30 days following the release of the environmental assessment (EA). Comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm, February 24, 2005. Comments may be emailed to tgreason@montana.edu or written comments may be sent to the following address: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Attn: Cameron Bridge EA, 1400 South 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59718.

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on an evaluation of impacts to the physical and human environments under The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), this environmental review concluded that no significant negative impacts would occur from the proposed action. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not necessary and an EA is the appropriate analysis.

2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Tom Greason, Parks Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

Murray Strong, Environmental Specialist
Stahly Engineering
2687 Airport Road
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-8594

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division
- Wildlife Division
- Fisheries Division
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Lands Division

Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Department of Transportation
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

PART VI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			x		yes	1b
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1b. Construction would cause some displacement of soil and possible sedimentation. The road approaches would cover some existing soil. Also, any sedimentation run-off from construction would be controlled by the erection of sedimentation barriers as per stipulations outlined in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting process.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		x				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)						NA
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. Minor amounts of dust and vehicle emissions would be created during construction. The dust will be mitigated through regular applications of water, and the emissions minimized through proper vehicle and equipment exhaust system maintenance and repair.

NA. Not Applicable. The project would not involve federal P-R/D-J project funding.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			x		Yes	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?			x		yes	3b
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		x				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		x				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		x				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)						NA
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)						NA
n. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a. Discharge into surface water would occur with the culvert installation to bridge the Mooreland Canal. Material brought in for the east bridge approach would be exposed until revegetation occurs. All exposed slopes would have erosion control measures in place to limit sediment entering the stream.

3c. A new bridge abutment on the east side of the river would be placed within the existing flood plain.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		x				
b. Alteration of a plant community?			x		Yes	4b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x		Yes	4e
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						NA
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4b. Minor impacts to the existing riparian vegetation would occur over the footprint of the realignment. These would total 0.07 acres of cottonwood forest and 0.08 acres of wetland.

4e. Spotted knapweed is prevalent along the west bank, surrounding the Mooreland Canal. Control of noxious weeds would be included in contract documents. Proposed mitigation measures to be included in the contract include seeding all disturbed areas not allocated for foot and vehicle traffic and equipment cleaning before and after use on the project. The County will also treat the area during annual weed control of their rights-of-ways.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		x				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)						NA
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)						NA
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

NOTE: FWP's area fisheries biologist and wildlife biologist were consulted. They both indicated a very low likelihood of any impacts to fish and wildlife species by the proposed realignment and construction.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			x		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		x				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a. A minor increase in noise would be expected during construction. The increased noise would be short-term and have no long-term cumulative effect. This will be mitigated by maintaining vehicle and equipment exhaust/muffler systems to meet acceptable decibel levels as per county and state regualtions.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		x				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			x		Yes	8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		x				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			x		Yes	8c
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						NA
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8a. Accidental release of hazardous substances is always a possibility at a construction site. The contractor would be required to develop and implement a *Spill Pollution Prevention Control Plan*.

8c. The new bridge alignment and bridge will result in higher vehicular speeds on the county road and through a recreation site thus increasing the hazards to humans. Signing, both warning and speed limit signs, will be posted by the county after the project is completed. However, the new bridge and alignment will increase driver safety by greatly reducing the current bridge and road alignment hazards, as these are the major reasons for the project in the first place.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			x			9e
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9e. The new alignment and bridge would decrease traffic hazards caused by the one-lane bridge and offset approaches, which is a positive impact. However, the new bridge and alignment will increase traffic speeds and this will be mitigated through warning and speed limit signs erected by the county.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		x				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		x				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		x				
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
No alteration in public services, taxes or utilities would occur. No increase/decrease in cumulative and secondary effects would be expected.

10e Projected revenue sources include $742,581 split evenly between Gallatin County and the State of Montana Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and an additional $187,419 incurred by the County

10f Maintenance and repair costs would be similar to current county expenditures for the existing bridge and approaches. These costs are part of the Gallatin County Road Department's budget.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		x				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			x		x	11c
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)						NA
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11c. Present access at the bridge vicinity to the river is from a primitive parking area and gate east of the bridge. The proposed action would replace the existing parking area and gate with a constructed parking area and access, closer to the river, within the abandoned bridge approach. This would be a positive impact of the project.

See parking lot construction details on page 8, under Other Stipulation, Mitigation or Control Measures.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		x				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?			x		Yes	12b
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)						NA
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12b The present structure is the oldest remaining steel highway bridge over the Gallatin River. Mitigation could include the relocation of the bridge to another location. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed this project, and has concluded that there is a low likelihood of cultural impacts. They (SHPO) do state that the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places, and that they want to be notified before the bridge is replaced. See Attachment B.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		x				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?			X		Yes	13c.
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)						NA
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						NA

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13c. Since this site is encumbered by Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars, the National Park Service (the managing agency for LWCF) will require that replacement property be obtained to offset the .33 acres that FWP will give up for the right-of-way realignment. See Explanation Below.

Land & Water Conservation Fund Laws and the Role of the National Park Service.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 encumbers properties acquired or developed with LWCF funds. Such properties must be kept open to the public and maintained for outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Requests from the project sponsor for permission to convert LWCF assisted properties in whole or in part must be submitted by the State Liaison Officer to the National Park Service Regional Director in writing. NPS will consider conversion requests if the following prerequisites have been met.

1. All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. The fair market value of the property to be converted has been established and the property proposed for substitution is of at least equal fair market value as established by a State approved appraisal (prepared in accordance with uniform Federal appraisal standards) excluding the value of structures or facilities that will not directly enhance its outdoor recreation utility.

3. The property proposed for replacement is of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location as that being converted. Dependent upon the situation and the discretion of the Regional Director, the replacement property need not provide identical recreation experiences or be located at the same site, provided it is in a reasonably equivalent location. Generally, the replacement property should be administered by the same political jurisdiction as the converted property. NPS will consider State requests to change the project sponsor when it is determined that a different political jurisdiction can better carry out the objectives of the original project agreement.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Appendix A

23-1-11O MCA Project Qualification Checklist

Date: October 8, 2004
Person Reviewing: Murray Strong – Stahly Engineering

Project Location:

Cameron Bridge Road, south of Belgrade, Gallatin County. NW ¼ NW ¼ section 22 T13N R4E

Description of Proposed Work:

Gallatin County is proposing road realignment for a new Cameron Bridge requiring a change of existing road right-of-way across FWP land. A net increase in right-of-way across would be 14,440 sq. ft. (0.33 acres). Total area of new right-of-way to be acquired from FWP would be 37,253 sq. ft. (0.85 acres). Gallatin County would relinquish 22,802 sq. ft. (0.52 acres) of existing right-of-way on FWP land.

The proposed action would be to replace a substandard one-lane bridge and road section with infrastructure meeting current county standards. In doing so, about 1,000 lineal feet of road would also be realigned to remove a dangerous curve and increase sight distance. Present bridge has a load limit of 4 tons and a limited clearance of 13.5 feet. A new bridge would allow for two-way traffic and increased load/height of vehicles using the road.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check √ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

[√] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: *Approximately 7,500 ft² of roadway would be constructed on the east bank of the Gallatin River to accommodate the new bridge abutment and approach.*

[] B. New building construction:
Comments: *No new building construction is proposed*.

[√] C. Any excavation of 20 cubic yards or greater?
Comments: *The new bridge abutments would require subexcavation Amount would be determined following design.*

[] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 20% or more?
Comments: *The new parking lot construction proposed will be built on disturbed ground and will not be expanded by more than 20%.*

[√] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station:

Comments: *Approximately 3,750 ft^2 of roadway would be constructed on the east bank of the Gallatin River within the floodplain to accommodate the new bridge abutment and approach.*

[√] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *Approximately 3,750 ft^2 of roadway would be constructed on the east bank of the Gallatin River within the floodplain to accommodate the new bridge abutment and approach.*

[√] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: *See attached HAER Inventory data sheet.*

[] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments: *None*

[]I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: *No campsites are planned.*

[]J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments: *No, anglers and hunters already park in the proposed project area.*

Appendix B

Sensitive Plants in the Cameron Bridge Area

A search of the Montana Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (nhp.nris.mt.gov/eoportal) indicates no known occurrences of

federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant species in the proposed project site.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
B. Clearance Letter – State Historic Preservation Office

09/03 sed